GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:352
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2000
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR SCS STS
P.R. KHUTE;SUKENDER REDDY GUTHA

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted a midterm review of development plans and programmes for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes included in the Ninth Plan;

(b) if so, the findings thereof;

(c) whether the Government are aware that the State Governments have failed to utilize the funds earmarked for SCs/STs;

(d) if so, the facts thereof, State-wise;

(e) whether some State Governments have diverted the funds earmarked for development of SCs/STs to other heads;

(f) if so, the details thereof; of

(g) the steps being taken to ensure full and proper utilization of funds earmarked for the development of SCs/STs?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SMT. MANEKA GANDHI)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) the highlights of the findings of the Mid-term appraisal of Ninth Five Year Plan of development plans and programmes for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other socially disadvantaged groups are at Annexure-I.

(c)to(f) The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and Ministry of Tribal Affairs release Special Central Assistance (SCA) to Special Component Plan (SCP), SCA to Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) and Special grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution which are earmarked for the SCs and STs. Statements regarding utilization of amounts released State-wise in the last 3 years (Annexure II, III, IV) indicate that some of the States have failed to fully utilize the allocated amounts.

(g) The Government is closely monitoring the progress of utilization of funds released under Special Central Assistance for SCs and STs to ensure full and proper utilization of funds earmarked for the development of these groups through quarterly progress reports on utilization of SCA furnished by States/UTs; meetings with State/UT Welfare Secretaries, field inspections by officers of this Ministry, evaluation studies regarding implementation of these schemes etc. The National Commission for SC and ST also reviews the working of the schemes and programmes for the welfare of SCs and STs periodically. For more effective utilization of SCA, all States/UTs have been asked to furnish specific project proposals for utilization of this assistance so that it can be ensured that the manner of utilization genuinely benefits the targeted population.

Annexure-I

Empowerment of the Socially Disadvantaged Groups

The Socially Disadvantaged Groups include - the Scheduled Castes (SCs), the Scheduled Tribes (STs), the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and the Minorities.The Ninth Five Year Plan is committed to empower these Groups, as the agents of socio-economic change and development through a three pronged strategy of - I) Social Empowerment, ii) Economic Empowerment; and iii) Social Justice

Social Empowerment

• Education being the most effective instrument for empowering these Groups, high priority continues to be accorded to improve the educational status of SCs, STs, OBCs and Minorities, especially that of the women and the girl child. Although, there has been a n increase in the literacy rates amongst the SCs and STs, yet they continue to lag behind the general population.

• To Supplement the efforts of the Department of Education, the two nodal Ministries of Social Justice and Empowerment and Tribal Affairs have been implementing a few exclusive educational programmes viz. Post-Matric Scholarships to SCs and STs benefiting 56.26 lakh students; Pre-Matric Scholarships for the children of those engaged in unclean occupation benefiting about 10.18 lakh students; construction of Hostels for SC/ST/OBC Boys and Girls; and Ashram Schools for STs.

• Further, towards ensuring educational development amongst the SCs/STs, the programmes such as Coaching and Allied Scheme; Book Banks; Up-gradation of merit of SC/ST students; Special Educational Development Programmes for the SC/ST Girls belonging to Low Literacy Areas are also being implemented.

• There is an urgent need to assess the impact of these schemes, especially that of the Post-Matric scholarships, Pre-Matric Scholarships and that of the Hostels.

Economic Empowerment

• The 6 apex Corporations set up to improve the economic lot of the Disadvantaged Groups work as catalytic agents besides extending both `forward` and `backward` linkages of credit and marketing facilities to the micro level agencies towards improving the economic lot of these Groups.

• While these Corporations were expected to become self-reliant over a period of 2-3 years of their establishment, they are becoming more and more dependent upon the Government support. This calls for an urgent study of the working of all these Corporations with a major objective of bringing forth necessary reforms to make them as effective financial instruments in empowering the disadvantaged.

• Efforts are being made to merge all the existing Corporations under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment into a single Corporation to reduce administrative cost and ensure its effective functioning. While an exclusive Corporation being set up for the benefit of STs.

• The incidence of poverty amongst SCs and STs still continues to be very high as almost half of their population lives below poverty line, though it started declining from 57.60 in 1983-84 to 48.37 in 1993-94 in respect of SCs and from 63.14 to 51.14 in respect of STs.

Social Justice

• As a first step in the process of instituting Social Justice, two exclusive Ministries viz., the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment for SCs, OBCs and Minorities in 1998 and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for STs in 1999 have been set up to extend a focused attention to these individual groups.

• To ensure effective enforcement of the Protection of Civil Rights (PCR) Act, 1955 and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, a definite plan of action ensuring preventive, investigative and rehabilitative measures are being strengthened in those areas/districts where the incidence of crimes/atrocities/violence is high against the weaker sections.

• Another measure to ensure social justice was the commitment on the part of the Government for complete removal of the inhuman practice f manual scavenging by the Year 2002 through a nation-wide Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers and their dependents. As the progress of this scheme is very tardy, steps are being taken to activate the States/UTs to accomplish the commitment.

Implementation of Special Mechanism

• To review/monitor the other-wise routinised implementation of the 3 special mechanisms viz., Special Component Plan (SCP), Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) and Special Central Assistance (SCA) to SCP and TSP, a Central Standing Triparitite Committee consisting of the representatives of the Planning Commission, National Commission for SCs and STs, the two nodal Ministries of Social Justice and Empowerment and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and the concerned Ministry/Department, was set up in May, 1999. So far, 16 Central Ministries/Departments have been reviewed. Similar Tripartite Committees in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Punjab and Gujarat have also been set up.

• The erstwhile practice of including SCA to TSP as part of the State Plan allocations has now been ceased with. In its place, SCA to TSP is now being released as a Special Central Assistance to supplement the efforts of the States for the economic development of the STs.

• Development of 75 Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) in the country, is yet another important area, which is receiving attention of the Government through preparatory activities towards formulation of a National Plan of Action for survival, protection and development of the PTGs.

• According to the National Commission for SCs and STs, untouchability is still practices in many forms through out the country. Also, the crimes against these vulnerable grupos of SCs and STs is on an increase. As per the National Crimes Record Bureau, New Delhi, murder, rape and hurt are the three major crimes recorded against these groups. Effective enforcement of PCR Act, 1955 and SC and ST (POA) Act, 1989 by all the States/UTs is the need of the Day , besides activating the 4 National Commissions set up to safeguard the rights and interest of SCs, STs, OBCs, Minorities and Safai Karamcharis to play an effective role.

• The Mid-term Appraisal recognized the unresolved issues/concerns viz.

milliteracy, ignorance, poverty, social disability and increasing atrocities/violence against the socially disadvantaged groups, in general, and some problems specific to STs viz. land alienation; involuntary displacement; indebtedness and bonded labour; lack of basic minimum services in the forest villages and the tribals living therein; shifting cultivation, ineffective implementation of Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996; social unrest etc. Special efforts are, therefore, being made to address these persisting problems.

• The prevailing backwardness amongst the tribals and the tribal areas has been paving the way for internal disturbances in certain States as reflected in the tribal unrest and extremist movements. Therefore, special efforts to safeguard the interest of these disadvantaged Groups needs to be taken up in the affected areas on priority basis by the concerned State Governments.

• Although, Voluntary organization/non-governmental organizations have been playing a vital role of bearing the responsibility of the Government in `Reaching the Services to the Un-Reached` in the backward rural and far-flung tribal areas, they are uneven in their distribution and are urban oriented. Therefore, all the grant-in-aid schemes for NGOs have been recently reviewed and were suggested to enlarge the scope and coverage.

• The pace of progress of expenditure in the Backward Classes Welfare sector appears to be satisfactory as the likely expenditure during the first 3 years (199702000) at the Central level stood at Rs.8998.90 crores (59.6%) against the ideal level of 60%. However, a qualitative assessment of the progress needs to be made in terms of improving the status of these socially disadvantaged groups.

Reply to part Â© to (f) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No.352 for 13.12.2000

Annexure-II

Special Central Assistance to Special Component Plan for Scheduled Castes

Released & Utilised during IX Plan Period (Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No	States/UT	1997-98 Released	% Utilised	1998-99 Released	Utilised	% 1999-2000 Relea	Utilised
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8 9 10 11
1	A.P.	2680.13	3627.52	135.35	3388.78	4335.20	127.93 4134.94 4142 100.17
2	Assam	142.18	112.20	78.91	596.66	362.00	60.67 695.31 515.00 74.07
3	Bihar	2808.20	4939.40	175.89	3620.07	1820.93	50.30 3471.49 0.00 0.00
4	Gujarat	1659.99	680.56	41.00	371.40	1136.79	306.08 682.27 682.27 100.00
5	Goa	3.83	1.16	30.29	2.72	1.90	69.85 5.49 3.66 66.67
6	Haryana	546.41	644.69	117.99	741.77	705.93	95.17 840.36 201.56 23.98
7	H.P	256.91	229.60	89.37	259.56	229.60	88.46 298.18 316.08 106.00
8	J&K	73.87	105.98	143.47	132.80	66.69	50.22 183.44 137.85 75.15
9	Karnataka	1389.35	1434.61	103.26	1820.07	1820.07	100.00 2097.36 1285.18 61.28
10	Kerala	645.94	576.05	89.18	724.54	561.23	77.46 813.24 753.88 92.70
11	M.P.	1945.24	1465.66	75.35	2237.08	2437.08	108.94 3303.27 1936.10 58.61
12	Maharashtra	1922.45	1643.61	85.50	1673.92	870.94	52.03 2067.30 2246.66 108.68
13	Manipur	6.58	6.58	100.00	10.62	8.43	79.38 12.54 7.25 57.81
14	Orissa	1925.47	1925.47	100.00	2281.57	2295.99	100.63 1907.72 1269.56 66.55
15	Punjab	0	887.82	0.00	1119.74	486.47	43.44 1280.29 1238.88 96.77
16	Rajasthan	2279.81	2308.28	101.25	2575.48	2357.68	91.54 2792.68 2745.11 98.30
17	Sikkim	4.44	4.44	100.00	4.03	6.12	151.86 22.37 5.50 24.59
18	Tamil Nadu	1756.90	1766.97	100.57	3236.93	3236.93	100.00 4036.92 1609.13 39.86
19	Tripura	106.28	106.50	100.21	108.72	102.99	94.73 159.14 164.87 103.60
20	U.P	7646.66	5572.47	72.87	7518.15	6847.50	91.08 9728.65 3425.43 35.21
21	West Bengal	2848.78	2848.78	100.00	3378.39	3378.39	100.00 4962.00 1954.40 39.39
22	Chandigarh	18.16	18.16	100.00	22.00	22.00	100.00 25.00 24.38 97.52
23	Delhi	135.43	90.69	66.96	201.71	78.87	39.10 149.91 63.91 42.63
24	Pondicherry	23.99	25.74	107.29	73.29	73.29	100.00 30.13 15.92 52.84
	Total	30827.00	31022.94	100.64	36100.00	33243.02	92.09 43700.00 24744.58 56.62

Annexure-lll State-wise amount released and expenditure reported under the scheme ot SCA to TSP

S.N.	NAME OF THE STATES/U.T.s	1995-96 AMOUNT RELEASED	EXPENDITURE REPORTED	1996-97 AMOUNT RELEASED	EXPENDITURE REPORTED	1997-98 AMOUNT RELEASED	EXPENDITURE REPORTED	1998-99 AMOUNT RELEASED	EXPENDITURE REPORTED	1999-2000 AMOUNT RELEASED	EXPENDITURE REPORTED
1	A.P.	2140.32	2140.32	2287.52	2287.52	2581.54	2581.54	2728.47	2728.47	2182.94	729.29
2	Assam	1545.19	823.80	1524.71	939.89	1460.00	938.11	2069.56	2152.00	2443.50	1913.00
3	Bihar	274.22	8.30	3364.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4362.12	4779.13	0.00
4	Gujarat	3060.26	2632.25	2642.95	2950.07	2632.77	2980.55	3689.70	3249.61	3139.98	3123.81
5	H.P.	541.62	493.35	622.44	541.62	521.89	623.48	689.44	557.69	514.05	0.00
6	J & K	756.64	989.15	681.54	787.37	521.80	916.89	739.22	500.269	776.38	726.56
7	Karnataka	659.99	411.47	569.50	391.98	500.00	641.53	686.64	505.41	616.13	889.31
8	Kerala	181.20	153.16	153.71	164.69	196.12	231.78	408.17	208.14	218.63	0.00
9	M.P.	9579.66	6581.33	7695.71	8532.99	9207.83	7139.01	9476.17	9641.21	9797.15	10585.25
10	Maharashtra	2930.82	2753.26	3160.78	2524.44	3400.89	2975.62	3532.21	2767.42	2974.57	0.00
11	Manipur	574.53	575.64	653.22	660.14	950.00	762.10	779.52	943.39	608.65	651.49
12	Orissa	4958.10	5489.66	4411.44	4411.44	5576.27	4376.27	5911.86	5000.00	5698.280	7660.140
13	Rajasthan	2819.04	3023.21	2467.32	2461.44	2341.13	2057.28	3475.72	2620.63	2915.24	3355.46
14	Sikkim	100.19	73.15	138.41	93.27	60.00	121.91	60.00	117.88	86.28	86.38
15	Tamil Nadu	274.44	274.44	238.81	232.01	243.71	263.31	295.91	295.91	258.27	258.27
16	Tripura	564.97	588.55	594.48	671.32	885.00	835.00	977.77	791.77	831.57	1067.57
17	Uttar Pradesh	104.08	39.59	90.39	101.66	112.91	64.59	57.54	112.91	99.85	57.54
18	West Bengal	1763.21	1763.21	1558.07	1654.04	1600.39	1600.39	2222.10	2222.10	1759.40	0.00
19	A & N Islands	112.21	89.11	95.18	105.78	118.00	97.13	133.90	123.77	255.40	135.25
20	Daman & Diu	59.31	59.31	49.82	49.82	50.75	50.61	66.10	11.69	44.60	20.60
	TOTAL	33000.00	28962.26	33000.00	29561.49	32961.00	29257.10	38000.00	38912.39	40000.00	31259.92

Annexure-IV

State-wise amount released and expenditure reported under the scheme for grant-in-aid under Article 275(1)

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.N.	States/UTs	Opening unspent balance 92-93 to 94-95	1995-96 Amount released	Expenditure reported	1996-97 Amount released	Expenditure reported	1997-98 Amount released	Expenditure reported	1998-99 Unspent balance	Amount released	Expenditure reported	1999-2000 Unspent balance	Amount released	Expenditure reported
1	Andhra Pradesh	670.47	460.50	460.50	460.50	0.00	453.50	153.00	300.50	607.00	0.00	607.00	613.86	0.00
2	Assam	777.30	315.00	315.00	315.00	315.00	305.00	0.00	305.00	210.00	0.00	210.00	420.17	0.00
3	Bihar	1298.62	725.25	0.00	725.25	0.00	641.75	0.00	641.75	483.50	0.00	483.50	967.23	0.00
4	Gujarat	72.83	675.00	748.87	675.00	1354.16	625.00	1047.67	-422.67	450.00	0.00	450.00	900.70	400.00
5	Himachal Prad	65.40	24.00	0.00	24.00	24.00	108.00	8.00	100.00	16.00	0.00	16.00	31.92	0.00
6	Jammu & Kashmir	257.40	95.25	0.00	95.25	0.00	131.75	0.00	131.75	63.50	0.00	63.50	124.12	0.00
7	Karnataka	167.41	210.00	49.00	210.00	261.65	270.00	115.81	154.19	140.00	308.54	-168.54	280.03	204.40
8	Kerala	44.92	35.25	48.45	35.25	0.00	111.75	0.00	111.75	123.50	0.00	123.50	46.92	0.00
9	Madhya Pradesh	353.07	1687.50	1664.47	1687.50	1907.47	1262.50	1390.25	-127.75	2125.00	702.16	1422.84	2250.96	0.00
10	Maharashtra	1895.78	801.75	671.85	801.75	214.75	667.25	304.31	362.94	534.50	678.19	-143.69	1069.75	0.00
11	Manipur	72.01	69.00	0.00	69.00	0.00	123.00	121.95	1.05	69.00	22.95	46.05	92.41	0.00
12	Orissa	0.00	771.00	771.00	771.00	771.00	657.00	257.00	400.00	514.00	514.00	0.00	1027.93	1027.93
13	Rajasthan	156.73	600.00	744.19	600.00	557.00	600.00	200.00	400.00	700.00	800.00	-100.00	800.29	300.20

14	Sikkim	0.00	9.75	9.75	9.75	0.00	103.25	3.25	100.00	9.75	3.57	6.18	13.29	113.38
15	Tamil Nadu	41.40	63.00	0.00	63.00	0.00	121.00	0.00	121.00	42.00	0.00	42.00	83.93	0.00
16	Tripura	0.00	93.75	93.75	93.75	93.75	231.25	0.00	231.25	162.50	331.00	-168.50	124.74	124.74
17	Uttar Pradesh	31.50	31.50	15.00	31.50	15.00	110.50	10.50	100.00	21.00	21.00	0.00	42.08	28.06
18	West Bengal	105.75	417.75	417.75	417.75	311.63	339.25	139.25	200.00	578.50	278.50	300.00	556.75	0.00
19	Arunachal Pra	153.15	60.00	0.00	60.00	0.00	120.00	0.00	120.00	60.00	0.00	60.00	80.45	0.00
20	Meghalaya	0.00	166.50	166.50	166.50	166.50	255.50	0.00	255.50	166.50	0.00	166.50	221.88	0.00
21	Mizoram	169.77	72.00	0.00	72.00	0.00	124.00	0.00	124.00	107.50	0.00	107.50	95.53	0.00
22	Nagaland	254.25	116.25	0.00	116.25	0.00	138.75	138.75	0.00	316.25	316.25	0.00	155.06	51.69
	Total	6587.76	7500.00	6176.08	7500.00	5991.91	7500.00	3889.74	3610.26	7500.00	3976.16	3523.84	10000.00	2250.40